

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. The media is the central nervous system of any democracy. When it is not working correctly due to consolidation, our democracy is put in grave danger. As we can see, when consolidation is in the hands of big business, the public interest is ignored and the bottom line is served. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter rather than the powers-that-be's manipulating opinions and "human interest" stories.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.